From: Margery Morgan <mgmorgan2014@gmail.com>
To: ehbarak <ehbarak1@gmail.com>
CC: Zamir Dahbash <zamir@shalomtelaviv.com>
Date: Thu, 10/30/2014 9:24:28 PM
Subject: Re: xªx©x•x‘x”: x”x¢x‘x¨x”: Corrected (English) version of EB Ed-Op

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Dear EB,

Thanks so much for your kind words and more importantly, for the invaluable feedback.

With your very good summary as a foundation, we can build a forceful oped while retaining the nuances where necessary.

I too am sorry to see the Bar Mitzvah boy go, but we must streamline in any way we can to highlight your main messages (actually, you could save the story for a future speech or lecture -- it's just too good not to use it somewhere).

You're right about discussing the two-state solution -- while it's relevant in relation to Bibi's irrational rationalizations, I think it will have to wait for another opportunity.

Have a good evening,
Margery

On Thu, Oct 30, 2014 at 5:25 PM, ehbarak <ehbarak1@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi Margery
> Thx. I like your blunt style. Having spent so many years at the top of hierarchies,having always to interpret what people mean when they say something I've learnt the edge and efficiency stemming from the ability to talk straight forward.
> In few sentences my message is: Israel faces a rare opportunity to reset regional relationship toward peace and cooperation. An opportunity we cannot afford missing in spite of all real storms and dangers around us. Achieving it needs a strong self confident IL,ready to enter into IL /PL negotiations while keeping the IDF capable of defeating any offender. Strong relationship with the U.S. And daring Leadership at home are the two preconditions for succeeding on both.
> (namely on keeping the qualitative edge of the IDF and of effective attempt at regional cooperation and peace agreements).
>
> Along the way I tried to send few subtler(?)messages: 1)preempt criticism of naïveté by counting the real threats as being fully understood. 2)count what the U.S. Is doing for IL. 3) backing Obama/Kerry while not justifying the denigration of BB.
> 4) insinuating seniority vis a vis BB and a standing vis a vis US Presidents.
>
> Probably the debate re Security vs. Two states solution could be delayed to another piece. I thought it's relevant because that's the way BB justifies his paralysis as being the right answer for the recent ISIS and Tunnels threats.
>
> I think that the text could
> be shortened significantly by avoiding repetitions redundancies and too many details (Bar Mitzvah boy etc. it is correct but words consuming.)
>
> Pl try. Thx in advance.
> Best
> EB
>
> Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 30, 2014, at 16:13, Margery Morgan <mgmorgan2014@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Barak,

First, please pardon my rather blunt assessment of the piece -- had I known you'd be getting it verbatim, I would have phrased it more diplomatically.

I definitely think the oped can be rewritten to deliver a clear, powerful message while retaining your own distinctive writer's "voice," but to do this, I'll need some help from you.

My big dilemma here has to do with defining your main message(s) and then deciding which sections can be trimmed or dropped without diluting that message.

If you could give me a very brief summary of the main point(s) you'd like to make (let's say, 150-200 words), we could construct the entire piece around that message to make sure it comes through loud and clear.

Don't worry about how it's written (it certainly doesn't have to read like Shakespeare) -- in fact, you can put together a rough list or outline or whatever is easiest and most comfortable for you.

This will be especially helpful when I go to make the cuts -- I don't want to inadvertently leave out something you consider of paramount importance.

With best regards,
Margery

On Thu, Oct 30, 2014 at 3:10 PM, Zamir Dahbash <zamir@shalomtelaviv.com> wrote:

מרג'רי מכותבת. היא עוד מעט תשיב

מאת: ehbarak
נשלח: יום חמישי, 30 באוקטובר 2014 15:08
אל: Zamir Dahbash
עותק: נילי פריאל-ברק; Inbal Dahbash; Margery Morgan
נושא: Re: תשובה: העברה: Corrected (English) version of EB Ed-Op

Hi Zamir
Margery is right. This is a short summary of my limitations in this arena.
(some of them are repeated even when I speak or write in Hebrew, as you well know).
Question is whether she can either recommend contours for reshaping it or alternatively even drafting a much shorter version omitting what she believes is less relevant for this weekend.
Pl check with Margery
Best
EB

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 30, 2014, at 14:29, Zamir Dahbash <zamir@shalomtelaviv.com> wrote:

אני מכתב את אהוד על מנת שיתייחס למה שכתבת.

אהוד, מרג'רי היא עורכת ומתרגמת בהארלד טריביון. עם הרבה ניסיון.
ביקשתי ממנה שתעבור על המאמר לפני שאשלח לטיימס.

מאת: Margery Morgan
נשלח: יום חמישי, 30 באוקטובר 2014 14:22
אל: Zamir Dahbash; Inbal Dahbash
נושא: Re: העברה: Corrected (English) version of EB Ed-Op

Hi Zamir,

I just read this over, fairly quickly, and here are a few comments.

First and foremost, it's way to long for any top newspaper to even consider.

Most, if not all, newspapers want 750 words maximum (maybe an extra 100 if it's a really special case) -- and this one is 1,640 words right now.

In other words, more than double what it should be, meaning that about 800-900 words have to be cut.

Secondly, there's so much material here that his main point is not coming through as clearly and strongly as it should.

Third, it's in terrible shape, in terms of grammar, syntax, spelling etc, and needs serious corrections (not minor ones, as his friend made).

In brief, this would need serious in-depth editing, almost a total rewrite, to be accepted by any major paper.

The most difficult aspect will be cutting it down to a suitable word count.

What do you think?

M

On Thu, Oct 30, 2014 at 1:17 PM, Inbal Dahbash <inbal@shalomtelaviv.com> wrote:

> Sent from my iPhone
>
> תחילת ההודעה שהועברה:
>
> **מאת:** Zamir Dahbash <zamir@shalomtelaviv.com>
> **תאריך:** 30 באוקטובר 2014 13:16:56 GMT+2
> **אל:** Inbal Dahbash <inbal@shalomtelaviv.com>
> **נושא: העברה: Corrected (English) version of EB Ed-Op**
>
> תגידי למרג'רי שתעבוד על זה
>
> הודעה מקורית
> מאת: Ehud Barak <ehbarak1@gmail.com>
> נשלח: יום חמישי, 30 באוקטובר 2014 13:14

אל: Zamir Dahbash
נושא: Corrected (English) version of EB Ed-Op

Zamir Hi
Pl find attached. A slightly improved version with corrected English. In two places there are square brackets with few words/remarks of my friend,which better be erased.
Try to convince them. Even if they will propose changes for our approval.
Both WP and WSJ could be reasonable alternatives but we have to act swiftly today.
Thx. Best.
EB

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